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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Guillermo Maldonado, King Jesus International Ministry, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Let's bow our heads and pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You for this opportunity for the religious freedom that we enjoy in this country. We are grateful to our Founding Fathers who fought and died for us to have this freedom.

Today, I lift up a prayer for each Member of Congress, and I ask You to give them the wisdom they need to govern and pass laws in favor of Your people.

Lord, You are who places and removes kings from their throne, and You ask us to pray for all those in positions of authority so that we may live peacefully in this Nation.

Lord, let Your will be done in this House as it is in heaven, for it brings peace and justice to this country. Let Your Holy Spirit guide each one of these men and women and rest upon their hearts and mind.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KIRK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR GUILLERMO MALDONADO, KING JESUS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY, MIAMI, FLORIDA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Pastor Guillermo Maldonado is the founder of Rey Jesus International Ministry in Miami, Florida. It is recognized as the largest Hispanic church in the entire country.

He, along with his wife, Ana Maldonado, who is joining us today in the gallery, are spiritual leaders for so many in our community. His dedication and commitment to serving God and to serving his fellow man is, frankly, unparalleled.

It's a great honor, a huge honor to have Pastor Maldonado as our guest chaplain in the House today, for he is truly an inspiring figure. I am so glad that this House is able to benefit from the spiritual guidance that so many of us in south Florida have been able to do over the years.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHITTEMORE PETERSON INSTITUTE SCIENTISTS DISCOVER SIGNIFICANT LINK BETWEEN XMRV AND ME/CF'S

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, a recently identified retrovirus called

XMRV has been linked to the debilitating neuroimmune disease that affects more than 1 million people in the United States. Scientists from the Whittemore Peterson Institute, located at the University of Nevada, Reno, and their collaborators from the National Cancer Institute and Cleveland Clinic have discovered a retroviral link to chronic fatigue syndrome. This is a major breakthrough in understanding the origins of this debilitating disease.

I rise in order to congratulate Harvey and Annette Whittemore. Ms. Annette and her husband, Harvey, have a daughter that was diagnosed with chronic disease syndrome. They have worked tirelessly and relentlessly to fund and ensure that they can find a cure to this disease.

I rise also to tell people that the money to purchase the equipment used to discover this medical breakthrough was funded by an earmark by the United States Congress. This is a good expenditure of taxpayers' dollars and will ultimately save millions of our fellow Americans' lives.

I congratulate the Whittemores and the institute. I look forward to working with them, not only to identify and isolate this enzyme that causes this disease, but to actually cure it.

YOU AMERICANS ARE RUNNING OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, in medicine, the rule is do no harm. But look at these Medicare cuts just approved by Speaker PELOSI. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the bill cuts Medicare, nursing, wheelchairs, home health, even hospice. Hospice? Yep. Medicare hospice is cut.

Another principle is this: the right hand of government should know what

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the left hand is doing. Just a few months ago we enacted a stimulus bill to put money in the economy, but the bill we are going to consider has a \$400 billion tax increase that takes money out of the economy.

In the teeth of the great recession, this is what we are going to do. But you know what? That's okay, because we can still borrow billions from foreign lenders; right? Or, as one British MP correctly said when he summed it all up, you Americans are running out of other people's money.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, do no harm. What we are really doing in health care reform is to ensure that we have an efficient, effective, and secure Medicare, not cuts. But really what we want to talk about is insuring all Americans.

Our job is not yet done. We thank the Senate Finance Committee for moving forward, but our job is not done. It's not done because a 17-pound, 4-month-old baby that had the Rocky Mountain Health Plan was denied insurance because of obesity. What more are Americans going to face?

Listen to this debate. The legislation that we have here in the House means that health insurance reform will come and an insurance company can no longer decide to deny you coverage or jack up your rate because of a pre-existing condition. It means it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you get sick or water it down. It means insurance companies will no longer be able to place some arbitrary cap on the coverage. It means there will be a yearly limit on how much you can be charged on out-of-pocket expenses. It means relief. It means that your bouncing baby boy will not be denied insurance because he happens to be chubby.

Let's get the job done, access to health insurance for all Americans.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH/TEENS AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes in America, with 85 percent of the victims being women. In an effort to raise awareness about this often-concealed problem, Teens Against Domestic Abuse, TADA, will be joining with the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County to host an event, "Women Ending Domestic Violence."

TADA is a local student activist group run by a caring and passionate young woman, Emily Martinez-Lanza, and her event will be next week, October 22, in Miami. Through education, awareness, and prevention, students are working to help break the cycle of domestic abuse.

I commend TADA for its efforts in promoting domestic violence education in our schools. I also commend the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County for its outstanding contributions to ending domestic violence in our south Florida community.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month reminds us, everyone deserves a safe home, one free from violence and free from abuse.

SUPPORT IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009.

This commonsense bill would empower State and local governments and educational institutions to divest from those foreign companies supporting Iran's energy sector if they so choose. I support the efforts of our diplomats both to engage Iran and to work with Iran's key trading partners to impose meaningful, multilateral sanctions.

However, if Iran still refuses to take meaningful steps towards transparency in halting its nuclear ambitions and if China and Russia refuse to go along with multilateral sanctions, then I believe it is critical that the President be prepared to act, including imposing crippling sanctions.

This bill will provide the President with the authority he needs.

PREMIUMS WILL RISE UNDER HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, in the next few weeks, the House of Representatives will be taking up health care reform legislation.

A report released Monday by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed the Senate Finance Committee's version of the health care bill will impose stiff costs to the American people. According to the report, a family paying \$12,300 currently for their health insurance policy would find themselves paying nearly \$26,000, on average, by 2019 under this bill. Premiums for a single person would go up by \$600 a year.

Mr. Speaker, Americans want reform which expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose the policy which fits their needs. Americans want meaningful medical liability reform to help

deter frivolous lawsuits, and they also want to be able to buy health insurance across State lines.

Republicans are willing to work with our colleagues to find bipartisan solutions to the hurdles standing in the way of health care reform.

□ 1015

HEALTH CARE REFORMS CLOSER

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, with each House of Congress finally preparing to bring a health care bill to the floor, we are now closer to reform than we have been in decades. And while we still have a few hurdles to jump before the finish line, there are major issues on which there is widespread agreement. So what can the American people be sure will be in any health care reform bill that is passed?

That it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage once you get sick and that they will no longer be able to exclude you based on a preexisting condition; routine checkups and preventive care will be covered without copayment; and your insurance plan will be portable, even when you change jobs.

In short, Americans will be able to keep the coverage they have and be safeguarded against losing it when they change jobs or get sick. These reforms are long overdue, but they are now one step closer to reality.

RESOLVE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Nation is at war in Afghanistan. The commander of the multinational forces says he needs several thousand more U.S. troops. But the United States has not sent him more troops. Our country is indecisive. Why do we delay?

Our enemy is not hesitant about their determination to continue to murder in the name of religion. Our inaction causes our national credibility and resolve to be in doubt. It encourages our foes and puzzles our allies.

If our troops needed more food, we would immediately send food. If our troops wanted more equipment, arms and vehicles, we would immediately send munitions. But if our troops want more troops, we stall, delay and ponder. Why?

It is said we need time to reevaluate the situation. Well, after years of fighting, are we not sure about our mission, our goal, our strategy? We are giving the impression to the world and to our military that we don't have the moral will to finish this war.

We can delay no longer. Our troops are already in the field. Their safety and success is of paramount importance. Let there be no question of our